

Message Text

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41

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 L-03 SP-03 SS-20 CIEP-02 OMB-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

DRC-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 PM-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /108 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN;WBCOBB:MW

APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

EB/AN:MHSTYLES (DRAFT)

NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER (DRAFT)

NEA/PAB:MGJONES (DRAFT)

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O P 031339Z JUL 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: AFGHAN AIRLINES SUSPEND SERVICE TO PAKISTAN

REF: KABUL 4125 (NOTAL)

BANGKOK FOR BRDCO

1. DEPT APPRECIATES CONCERN OF EMBASSY KABUL RE POSSIBILITY THAT ARIANA-PIA DISPUTE COULD HAVE BROADER RAMIFICATIONS THAN THE IMMEDIATE COMMERCIAL PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO INJECT USG INTO SUBSTANCE OF DISPUTE OF THIS NATURE.

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2. BOTH QUOTA AND NUMERICAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF

PASSENGERS A FOREIGN CARRIER MAY PICK UP IN THE HOST COUNTRY FOR DESTINATIONS TO A THIRD COUNTRY ARE NOT UNUSUAL IN AVIATION PRACTICE AMONG COUNTRIES OTHER THAN US. WHILE IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE PAKISTAN'S RESTRICTIONS APPEAR UNUSUALLY STRINGENT, THEY DO NOT PRECLUDE OPERATIONS BY ARIANA. ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS ARIANA HAS OPERATED KABUL-DELHI ROUTE WITH RESTRICTIONS ON ITS PASSENGER SERVICE IN PAKISTAN. DECISION TO SUSPEND SERVICE HAS BEEN MADE BY AFGHANS AND THEY ARE BEST JUDGES OF WHETHER IT WILL ADVANCE THEIR LONG RANGE INTERESTS. THE THREATENED DECISION TO ESCALATE DISPUTE BY PROHIBITING PIA SERVICE TO KABUL AFTER JULY 15, IF CARRIED OUT, WILL NO DOUBT FURTHER

EXACERBATE SITUATION.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT NO INQUIRY BE MADE AS TO BACKGROUND FOR EITHER PAK OR AFGHAN ACTION, SO THAT WE CAN AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT USG SEEKS TO PLAY A MEDIATOR'S ROLE OR MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO SUCH A ROLE UPON REQUEST. IF GOA OR GOP SHOULD RAISE SUBJECT WITH EMBASSIES IN KABUL OR ISLAMABAD, POSTS SHOULD SAY USG DOES NOT WANT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS BILATERAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUE. EMBASSIES, SHOULD HOWEVER STATE, IF ISSUE IS RAISED BY HOST OFFICIALS, THAT WE HOPE BOTH SIDES WILL ENDEAVOR THROUGH NORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES TO RESOLVE ISSUE BETWEEN THEM AND NOT LET THIS QUESTION DAMAGE THEIR OVERALL RELATIONS.

SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR TRAFFIC DATA, PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE143639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740176-0670
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740776/aaaacnno.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KABUL 4125 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FGHAN AIRLINES SUSPEND SERVICE TO PAKISTAN
TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, AF, PK, ARIANA
To: KABUL ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005